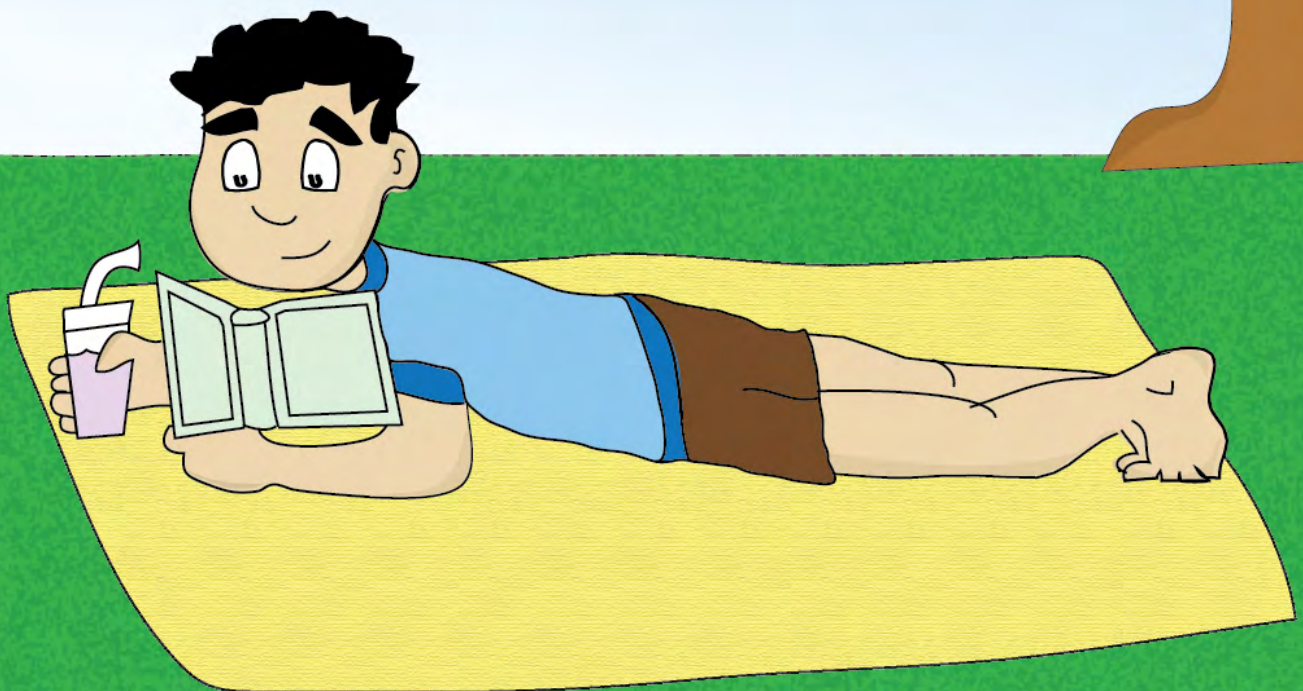


Summer Reading 2011

Entering

5-6



Brookline Public Schools Brookline, Massachusetts



The Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts

Educational Technology and Library Department

Scott Moore, Director

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Creating a school-wide culture of reading has always been a priority for the teachers, librarians, and literacy specialists in the Brookline Public Schools. In each school that culture is built and nurtured in myriad ways—through the study of literary elements, read-alouds, book talks, literature circles, genre studies, author visits, evening parent/child book events, independent reading projects, participation in Massachusetts Book Awards and summer reading.

Summer is a perfect time to find books to read for pleasure. This list is a starting point to help you select books that match your interests and includes a variety of titles across many genres, levels, and lengths. Students are encouraged to read at least 5 or 6 books. Our goal is to develop readers who not only *can* read, but who *choose* to read for enjoyment.

Summer reading is also a great opportunity to hone your reading skills and maintain your fluency. According to a recent report from John Hopkins University's Center for Summer Learning children who do not read over the summer actually lose ground in reading proficiency. The report concludes that the effect of reading four or five books during the summer is large enough to prevent a decline in reading scores from spring to fall.

In addition to this list, Brookline's public libraries and bookstores offer a wealth of titles and suggestions to help you find just the right book for your enjoyment.

Explore. Read. Enjoy,

Brookline K-8 School Librarians

Deb Abner, Lincoln School
Rusty Browder, Lawrence School
Colleen Carney, Heath School
Paula Ewenstein, Baker School
Teresa Gallo-Toth, Runkle School
Amanda Kretschmar, Pierce School
Christine McDonnell, Devotion School
Amy Neale, Driscoll School

Scott, Moore, Director of Educational Technology and Libraries.

Downloadable copies of the list are available at <http://brooklinesummerreading.weebly.com/>

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Hot Off the Presses: New and Noteworthy

Angleberger, Tom. ***Strange Case of Origami Yoda*** *

Is Origami Yoda real? Of course he's real as a small puppet on Dwight's finger. But does the oracle possess magic power? Is this puppet really Yoda? Or is Dwight a bit more together than he seems?

Baggott, Julianna. ***The Prince of Fenway Park*** **

Oscar's dad has a secret. He lives deep below Fenway Park, and is one of a number of strange magical souls doomed to live out their existence below Fenway until the Curse is broken. What no one could have predicted is that Oscar is the key to breaking the curse.

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. ***Cosmic*** **

Life is hard for Liam until he decides to enter the Greatest Dad Ever Contest and in short order finds himself on a rocket ship that is off course and 200,000 miles above the earth.

Klass, David. ***Stuck on Earth*** **

Ketchvar, an alien—who, to human eyes, looks just like a common snail—crawls into the brain of fourteen-year-old Tom Filber in order to decide if the Sandovinians should release the Gagnerian Death Ray and erase the human species for good? Is it possible that Homo sapiens really are worth saving?

Lourie, Peter. ***The Manatee Scientists (series)*** **

Scientists are working hard to save manatees: docile, large sea mammals that are eaten in some parts of the world, feared in others, and adored in still others. They are an endangered species, in need of help.

Obama, Barack. ***Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters*** *

In this letter to his daughters, President Barack Obama pays tribute to thirteen groundbreaking Americans and the ideals that have shaped our nation.

Riordan, Rick. ***The Throne of Fire: The Kane Chronicles (series)*** ***

In this exciting second installment of the three-book series, Carter and Sadie embark on a worldwide search for the Book of Ra, but the House of Life and the gods of chaos are determined to stop them

Williams-Garcia, Rita. ***One Crazy Summer*** **

In the summer of 1968, Delphine's father decides that it's time the girls got to know their mother. Delphine boards a plane with her sisters to Cecile's home in Oakland. What they find there is far from their California dreams of Disneyland and movie stars.

Take a Look:

Picture Books for Older Readers

Hale, Dean and Shannon Hale. ***Calamity Jack*** *

Jack likes to think of himself as a criminal mastermind...with an unfortunate amount of bad luck. A schemer, plotter, planner, trickster, swindler...maybe even thief? One fine day Jack picks a target a little more giant than the usual, and one little bean turns into a great big building-destroying beanstalk.

Hill, Laban Carrick. ***Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave*** *

Dave was an extraordinary artist, poet, and potter living in South Carolina in the 1800s. He combined his superb artistry with deeply observant poetry carved onto his pots, transcending the limitations he faced as an enslaved person.

Karas, G. Brian. ***Young Zeus*** *

How young Zeus, with a little help from six monsters, five Greek gods, an enchanted she-goat, and his mother, became god of gods, master of lightning and thunder and ruler over all.

Mochizuki, Ken. ***Baseball Saved Us*** **

During World War II, a young Japanese-American boy and his family are sent to an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Father and son pull the camp together to build a baseball diamond and form a league.

Selznick, Brian. ***The Invention of Hugo Cabret*** *

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toymaker and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Tan, Shaun. ***Lost and Found*** **

In this graphic novel, girl finds a bright spot in a dark world. A boy leads a strange, lost creature home, and a group of peaceful creatures lose their home to cruel invaders.

Tavaras, Matt. ***Mudball*** *

Andy Oyler is the shortest player on his baseball team and no matter how hard he tries, he just can't seem to get a hit. But one day a sudden change in the weather leads to a change in Andy Oyler's luck, and as Andy soon discovers, even the shortest player can become the game's biggest hero!

Too Good to Miss: Classics

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. ***The Secret Garden*** ***

Orphaned Mary Lennox goes to live with her hermit uncle in gloomy, mysterious Misselthwaite Manor. There, she discovers all sorts of secrets, including a cousin she's never heard of and a garden everyone has forgotten.

Burnford, Sheila. ***The Incredible Journey*** **

A young Labrador retriever, a bull terrier and a Siamese cat set out through the Canadian wilderness. Together, the three house pets face starvation, exposure, and wild forest animals as they attempt to make their way home to the family they love.

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Lewis, C. S. ***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (series)*** **

Four children travel repeatedly to a world in which they are far more than mere children, and everything is far more than it seems.

Nesbit, Edith. ***The Railway Children*** ***

When their father is sent away to prison, three London children move to the country where they keep busy preventing accidents on the nearby railway, making many new friends, and generally learning a good deal about themselves.

O'Dell, Scott. ***The Island of the Blue Dolphins*** **

Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.

Paterson, Katherine. ***Bridge to Terabithia*** **

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer. Together they create Terabithia, a magical kingdom in the woods.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Hatchet (series)*** ***

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is the only survivor when the single-engine plane crashes. His body battered, his clothes in shreds, Brian must now stay alive in the Canadian wilderness with only a small hatchet as a tool. It will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed to survive.

Steig, William. ***Abel's Island*** **

Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***Treasure Island*** **

When an old sea captain arrives at the Admiral Benbow Inn with a mysterious sea chest and fearful talk of a man with one leg, the scene is set for one of the most popular adventure stories of all time.

Verne, Jules. ***Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*** ***

A nineteenth-century science fiction tale of an electric submarine, its eccentric captain, and an undersea world, which anticipated many of the scientific achievements of the twentieth century.

Folklore & Mythology

Barron, T. A. ***Lost Years of Merlin (series)*** **

The first book in this series is about Merlin's boyhood and coming of age. From the moment young Merlin is washed ashore on a beach in ancient Wales to his exciting journey to the enchanted land of Fincayra, the action never wavers.

D'Aulaires, Ingri & Edgar. ***D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths*** *
An introduction to the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece.

Morpurgo, Michael. ***Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*** *

When a mysterious green knight rides into King Arthur's court, interrupting a New Year's feast, he issues a challenge. Sir Gawain accepts and decapitates the green knight, only to see him pick up his severed head. The enchanted knight announces that Gawain must, on his honor, meet him on the next New Year's Day to receive the same blow.

O'Connor, George. ***Athena: Grey-Eyed Goddess*** **

Epic battles, daring quests, and terrible monsters await readers within the pages of these books. Athena: "Grey-Eyed Goddess", is the tale of the goddess of wisdom and war, recounting her many adventures.

O'Connor, George. ***Zeus: King of the Gods (series)*** **

Fast-paced, high-drama adventures, with monsters, romance, and a few huge explosions. O'Connor's art brings ancient tales to life in this book about the father of the gods.

Osborne, Mary Pope. ***Tales From the Odyssey*** *

When Odysseus must leave his home to fight the Trojan War, he never imagines that he'll be away from his family for so many years. At long last, he is leading his men home across the seas, but many dangers await them, none more terrifying than Polyphemus, the one-eyed giant.

Get Real: Nonfiction

Burns, Loree Griffin. ***Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion*** **

Through floating sneakers and bath toys that accidentally fell off container ships and a computer program named OSCURS, scientists tracked the currents of the ocean. These experiments led to a discussion of how debris is polluting our oceans and causing harm to marine life.

Chaikin, Andrew. ***Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon*** **

Space history from the Mercury missions through Apollo 17 and beyond. This book is illustrated with full-color paintings by astronaut Alan Bean.

Fleischman, John. ***Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science*** **

The true story of Phineas Gage, whose brain had been pierced by an iron rod in 1848. He survived and became a case study in how the brain functions.

Montgomery, Sy. ***Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot*** **

Another winning entry in the Scientists in the Field series. This beautifully photographed work details a project to save a New Zealand parrot species from extinction.

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Partridge, Elizabeth. ***Marching for Freedom: Walk Together Children and Don't You Get Weary*** ***

Through moving prose, the bravery of the very youngest participants in the Civil Rights moment is recounted. They inspired and motivated the adults in their lives, including their teachers, parents, and grandparents.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. ***Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex*** ***

Adapted and abridged from the adult title, "In the Heart of the Sea", this is the story of the Nantucket whale ship Essex, which sank in the Pacific in November 1820, after being deliberately rammed by an apparently enraged sperm whale. Three months later, five emaciated men were rescued from two small boats filled with the bones of their unlucky companions.

Pollan, Michael (Chevat, adaptor). ***Omnivore's Dilemma: the Secrets Behind What You Eat (Young Readers Edition)*** **

From fast food and big agriculture to small farms and old-fashioned hunting and gathering, Pollan's famous food-chain exploration encourages kids to consider the personal and global health implications of their food choices.

It Could Happen: Realistic Fiction

Baker, Deidre. ***Becca at Sea*** **

After Becca's mom becomes pregnant, Becca visits her grandmother at her rustic cabin by the sea alone, and although she dreads it at first, she finds adventures and friendship and returns to the island again and again.

Clements, Andrew. ***No Talking*** **

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

Erskine, Kathryn. ***Mockingbird*** **

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

Fleischman, Paul. ***Seedfolks*** **

A blighted neighborhood is transformed when a young girl plants a few lima beans in an abandoned lot. Slowly, one by one, neighbors are touched and stirred to action as they see tendrils poke through the dirt. Hispanics, Haitians, Koreans, young and old begin to turn the littered lot into a garden for the whole community.

Frost, Helen. ***Diamond Willow*** *

In a remote area of Alaska, twelve-year-old Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she is not at school. Wishing she were more popular, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of dead ancestors and friends who care for her.

Gantos, Jack. ***Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (series)*** **

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention and controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off, and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

Hiaasen, Carl. ***Scat*** ***

Bunny Starch, the most feared biology teacher ever, is missing. She disappeared after a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp, but when the principal tries to tell the students that Mrs. Starch has been called away on a "family emergency," Nick and Marta just don't buy it. They figure the class delinquent, Smoke, has something to do with her disappearance. He does, but not in the way they think. There's a lot more going on in Black Vine Swamp than any one player in this twisted tale can see.

Kodohata, Cynthia. ***Kira-Kira*** ***

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

Marsden, Carolyn. ***The Buddha's Diamonds*** *

As a storm sweeps in, Tinh's father tells him to tie up their fishing boat but the storm scares him and he runs away. When the damage to the boat is discovered, Tinh realizes what he must do.

Nicholls, Sally. ***Ways to Live Forever*** ***

"My name is Sam. I am eleven years old. I collect stories and fantastic facts. I have leukemia. By the time you read this I will probably be dead." So begins an unflinching first person account of the last days of a young boy's life.

Weeks, Sarah. ***So B. It*** **

Although she lives an unconventional lifestyle with her mentally disabled mother, Heidi has a lucky streak. When a mysterious word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi's thirst for the truth leads her on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past.

Yee, Lee. ***Millicent Min, Girl Genius*** **

In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

Life Stories: Biography

Buckley, James. ***Pele*** *

This book introduces soccer legend Pelé and describes his life from his Brazilian youth, when he honed his soccer skills with homemade balls, through his astonishing career and his current retirement with thrilling play-by-play accounts of key matches.

Hampton, Wilborn. ***Babe Ruth*** ***

Unlike the approach in other books about Ruth, the focus here is on Ruth's sad early life and his career as a pitcher with the

Boston Red Sox. Some of the more tawdry aspects of Ruth's life are not glossed over, but throughout an attempt is made to give some sense of the grace, power, and skill of Ruth on the field.

Hoose, Phillip. ***Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*** ***
 Nine months before Rosa Parks' history-making protest on a city bus, Claudette Colvin, a 15-year-old Montgomery, Alabama high school student, was arrested and jailed for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. Hoose draws from numerous personal interviews with Colvin in this exceptional title that is part historical account, part memoir.

Krull, Kathleen. ***Marie Curie*** **
 Marie Curie coined the term radioactivity and won not just one Nobel prize but two—in physics and in chemistry.

Lang Lang. ***Lang Lang: Playing with Flying Keys*** ***
 Lang Lang, one of the greatest pianists of our time, tells of his heart-wrenching journey from his early childhood as a prodigy in an industrial city in northern China, to his difficult years in Beijing, to his success today.

Levine, Ellen. ***Rachel Carson: a Twentieth-Century Life*** **
 In her award winning and controversial book, "Silent Spring," environmentalist Rachel Carson revealed the dangers of pesticide use and made us aware of man's contamination of the environment.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***The Greatest: Muhammad Ali*** ***
 An introduction to Ali's life from his childhood to the present day, focusing on his career and the controversies surrounding him. Both his talent in the boxing ring and his showmanship earned him fame, while his refusal to accept the stereotypical role of a black athletic star in the 1960s brought him notoriety.

Siegel, Siena. ***To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel*** *
 This engaging graphic novel follows author Siena Cherson Siegel's involvement with ballet from the age of six and her training as an adolescent at the School of American Ballet, to her leaving professional dance when she reached college, and her return to it several years later. The images reflect both the beauty and the pain of dance.

Out of This World: Fantasy & Science Fiction

Delaney, Joseph. ***The Revenge of the Witch (series)*** ***
 Young Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, starts work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties."

Duprau, Jeanne. ***The City of Ember (series)*** **
 Lina and Doon live in Ember, an isolated city whose only light comes from the electricity supplied by a huge underground generator—a generator that is beginning to fail. Can Lina and Doon find a way to save themselves and their city?

Farmer, Nancy. ***The Sea of Trolls (series)*** ***
 The year is 793, and fierce Vikings pass through a Saxon village and enslave two of its residents: Jack, an 11-year-old apprentice Mage and his 5-year-old sister Lucy. Jack and Lucy must embark on a perilous journey through lands filled with trolls, dragons, giant spiders, and talking crows to get back home.

Flanagan, John. ***The Ruins of Gorlan (series)*** **
 The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. Now fifteen year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, the Rangers fight the battles before the battles reach the people, and as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing.

Fox, Helen. ***Eager (series)*** **
 In late twenty-first century England, the Bell family's new robot, Eager, is programmed to learn about the world as a human would, by making mistakes and searching for the answers to life's questions. Most of this novel centers on Eager's often funny efforts to come to grips with a many of life's problems, although he and the Bell children also uncover a rebellion by highly sophisticated, human like robots.

Landy, Derek. ***Skulduggery Pleasant: Scepter of the Ancients (series)*** ***
 Twelve-year-old Stephanie Edgley inherits her uncle Gordon's estate and is promptly attacked on her first visit to the property. A mysterious skeleton detective, Skulduggery Pleasant, comes to her rescue, explaining that he thinks Gordon was murdered and that she may be next. The two join forces and set off to solve the crime in a series of magical, often violent adventures that take them into a world filled with ancient evil creatures.

Martin, Ann. ***The Doll People (series)*** *
 A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor.

Mass, Wendy. ***11 Birthdays*** **
 Amanda and Leo discover that they are caught in a time loop, waking up each morning to find themselves repeating their eleventh birthdays. What is going on? How can they fix it? Only time, friendship, and a little luck will tell.

O'Brien, Robert C. ***Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nihm (series)*** **
 There's something very strange about the rats living under the rosebush at the Fitzgibbon farm. But Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with a sick child must turn to these exceptional creatures for assistance. Soon she finds herself flying on the back of a crow, slipping sleeping powder into a ferocious cat's dinner dish, and helping 108 brilliant, laboratory-enhanced rats escape to a better place.

Reeve, Philip. ***Fever Crumb*** ***
 Foundling Fever Crumb has been raised as an engineer although females in the future London are not believed capable of rational thought. At the age fourteen Fever leaves her

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sheltered world and begins to learn startling truths about her past while facing dangers in the present.

Stead, Rebecca. ***When You Reach Me*** **

Shortly after sixth-grader Miranda and her best friend Sal part ways, for some inexplicable reason her once familiar world turns upside down. Maybe it's because she's caught up in reading "A Wrinkle in Time" and trying to understand time travel, or perhaps it's because she's been receiving mysterious notes which accurately predict the future.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. ***Castle in the Attic*** **

William receives the best present of his life, a realistic model of a castle, with a drawbridge, moat, and a finger-high knight to guard the gates. When he picks up the tiny silver knight, it comes alive in his hand!

Winthrop, Elizabeth. ***The Castle in the Attic*** **

Ten-year-old William is so distraught at the idea of his beloved housekeeper/nanny Mrs. Phillips returning to England that, with the aid of a magic token, he shrinks her into the size of the toy knight who inhabits a wooden castle that has been passed down in her family for generations. To undo his rash deed, William must be miniaturized himself and accompany the silver knight on a quest to overthrow a wicked magician.

Page-turners: Mystery & Adventure

Abrahams, Peter. ***Down the Rabbit Hole (series)*** **

Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her hometown of Echo Falls.

Avi. ***True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*** ***

"Not every thirteen-year-old girl is accused of murder, brought to trial and found guilty," Charlotte states, beginning an account of her 1832 transatlantic crossing.

Beil, Mildred D. ***The Red Blazer Girls: The Vanishing Violin (series)*** **

Seventh-graders Sophie, Margaret, Rebecca, and Leigh Ann follow a trail of cryptic clues to locate a rare violin, catch the person sneaking into St. Veronica's School for late-night cleaning and redecorating, and outsmart a conniving classmate.

Dowd, Siobhan. ***The London Eye Mystery*** **

While Ted, his sister Kat, and their cousin Salim wait in line to ride the London Eye, a huge ferris wheel, a stranger from the front of the line offers one free ticket and Salim takes it. Ted and Kat see him enter the capsule and follow his ride, but to their shock, he doesn't exit with his fellow riders. It's up to them to find him.

Feinstein, John. ***Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery (series)*** **

Two lucky aspiring sports journalists win a trip to the Final Four. The games going on behind the scenes between the coaches, the players, the media, the money-men, and the fans turn out to be even more fiercely competitive than those on the court. Steven and Susan overhear what sounds like a threat to throw the championship game. What should they do?

Hautman, Pete. ***Skullduggery: a Bloodwater Mystery (series)*** **

During a field trip in the local woods, Roni and Brian find the local archaeology professor knocked unconscious in a cave, which leads them to investigate a land development scheme.

Horowitz, Anthony. ***Stormbreaker (series)*** ***

When his uncle and guardian dies in a mysterious accident, fourteen year-old Alex Rider finds out that he was a spy for the MI6, Britain's equivalent of the CIA. Alex is recruited by the agency to continue his uncle's mission, kicking off his career as the youngest-ever international British spy.

Smith, Roland. ***Peak*** ***

Fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Stewart, Trenton L. ***Mysterious Benedict Society (series)*** ***

Reynie and three other gifted children are recruited to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and use their intellect, imagination, and resourcefulness to derail a plot to take over the world.

Walden, Mark. ***H. I. V. E.: Higher Institute of Villainous Education (series)*** **

When they are swept away to a hidden academy for training evil geniuses, Otto, a brilliant orphan; Wing, a sensitive warrior; Laura, a shy computer specialist; and Shelby, an infamous jewel thief, plot to beat the odds and escape.

Wood, Maryrose. ***The Incurable Children of Ashton Place: The Mysterious Howling (series)*** **

Set in 19th-century England, the novel tells the story of 15-year-old Penelope Lumley. A newly hired governess to Alexander, Beowulf, and Cassiopeia. Previously raised by wolves, the three children are now the trophies and property of the shady Lord Fredrick of Ashton Place. Humorous antics and a climactic cliff-hanger ending will keep you turning pages and clamoring for the next volume.

Play Ball!: Sports Books

Barber, Tiki. ***Kickoff!! (series)*** *

Inspired by the childhood of NFL superstars Tiki and Ronde Barber, Kickoff! is a story of teamwork, perseverance, and what it takes to be a champion.

Coy, John. ***Top of the Order*** **

Ten-year-old Jackson lives for baseball, but becomes distracted by the approach of middle school, his mother's latest boyfriend, and the presence of a girl.

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Gutman, Dan. ***Ray and Me (series)*** **

Joe can travel back in time using baseball cards with magic powers. This time, Joe goes back to try to save Ray Chapman, the only player in major league history to get hit by a pitched ball and die.

Lupica, Mike. ***Batboy*** ***

Even though his mother feels baseball ruined her marriage to his father, she allows fourteen-year-old Brian to become a bat boy for the Detroit Tigers, who have just drafted his favorite player back onto the team.

Lupica, Mike. ***Shoot-Out: Mike Lupica's Comeback Kids (series)*** **

What happens when a star player ends up on the worst team? He either learns to lose or he stops playing the game he loves. These are the choices facing Jake, who has gone from champion to last place, testing his sportsmanship every time his soccer team gets soundly beaten.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. ***Bat 6*** ***

Each year the girls' softball teams of Bear Creek Ridge and Barlow compete to the friendly cheers of townspeople. This year Shazam's racial hatred of Aki Mikami explodes in this riveting novel set in post-World War II Oregon.

Way Back When: Historical Fiction

Avi. ***Crispin: the Cross of Lead (series)*** **

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

Bryant, Jennifer. ***Kaleidoscope Eyes*** **

When Lyza helps her dad clean out her late grandfather's house, a mysterious surprise brightens the sad task. In Gramps's dusty attic, Lyza discovers three maps. On top, an envelope says "For Lyza ONLY." What could this possibly be? It takes the help of her two best friends to figure out that the maps reveal three possible spots in their own New Jersey town where Captain Kidd, the seventeenth-century pirate, may have buried a treasure.

Choldenko, G. ***Al Capone Shines My Shoes (series)*** ***

It's 1935. Moose Flanagan lives on Alcatraz with his family, the other families of the guards, and a few hundred hit men, con men, mad dog murderers and a handful of bank robbers too. One of those cons has just done him a big favor and wants a favor in return.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. ***Elijah of Buxton*** ***

In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Erdrich, Louise. ***Birchbark House (series)*** **

In this account of a year in the life of a 19th-century Ojibwa family, young Omakayas works and plays through the summer and fall, learning the ways of her people until a deadly illness strikes the tribe.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. ***Strawberry Hill*** *

Ten-year-old Allie's family moves from urban New Haven to rural Stamford, Connecticut, in the midst of the Great Depression. Allie learns what makes a true friend and comes to realize that people can change, even adults.

Klages, Ellen. ***The Green Glass Sea (series)*** **

In 1943, eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan lives with her scientist father in Los Alamos, New Mexico, as he works on a top-secret government program. The mystery and tension surrounding what Dewey knows only as "the gadget" trickles down to the kids on the compound who often do without adult supervision.

Lowry, Lois. ***Number the Stars*** *

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Park, Linda Sue. ***When My Name Was Keoko*** ***

With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.

Philbrick, Rodman. ***The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*** **

Homer P. Figg escapes from his wretched foster home in Pine Swamp, Maine, and sets out to find his beloved older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army.

Porter, Pamela. ***Crazy Man (series)*** **

After Emaline is crippled by an accident with her father's tractor in 1965, her father leaves the farm. Her mother takes in Angus from the local mental hospital to help with the farm work, but the neighbors jeer and complain. Emaline never denies Angus' illness, but she sees his kindness and strength.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. ***Esperanza Rising*** ***

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Just for Fun: Humor

Allison, J. ***Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator (series)*** **
Ever since her father died, quirky Gilda Joyce has been determined to communicate with spirits and become a crack investigator of spooky, twisted mysteries. Hair-raising and hilarious, this is a behind-the-scenes, tell-all account of her very first case.

Gantos, Jack. ***Jack on the Tracks (series)*** ***
Fascinated with all things disgusting, Jack is constantly struggling to sort out how boys are supposed to behave. Between picking a hookworm (his secret "pet") out of his arm and lying in a hole with a screaming locomotive passing overhead, Jack is no role model, but he is real.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Harris and Me*** **
Sent to live with relatives on their farm because of his unhappy home life, an eleven-year-old city boy meets his distant cousin Harris and is given an introduction to a whole new world.

Peck, Richard. ***Soup (series)*** **
Peck tells stories from a boyhood filled with barrels to roll in, apples to whip, windows to break, ropes to bind prisoners, acorn pipes, and ten-cent Saturday movies. Back then, as always, nothing was quite as important as a best friend.

Pinkwater, Daniel. ***Fat Camp Commandos (series)*** *
When Ralph and Sylvia Nebula's pudgy parents get suckered into sending their chubby offspring to fat camp, their children first get angry – then they get revenge.

Scieszka, Jon. ***Knucklehead : Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories of Growing Up Scieszka*** ***
A memoir about growing up as one of six brothers with lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and plenty of jokes and pranks.

Van Draanen. ***Shredderman: Secret Identity (series)*** *
Bullies got you down? Never fear, Shredderman is here! Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, sick of being picked on by class bully Bubba Bixby, uses his brains and creativity to outsmart the Bubba and end his reign of playground terror.

A Way With Words: Poetry

Giovanni, Nikki. ***Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry With a Beat*** *
Compiler Giovanni states "Poetry with a beat. Hip Hop Speaks to Children is a delightful and enlightening collection of poetry from various poets.

Hughes, Langston. ***The Dream Keeper and Other Poems*** **
A collection of sixty-six poems selected by the author for young readers, including lyrical poems, songs, and blues, many exploring the black experience.

Kennedy, Caroline. ***A Family of Poems: My Favorite Poetry for Children*** **
Caroline Kennedy has assembled a collection of poems families are sure to enjoy for years to come.

Prelutsky, Jack. ***Pizza, Pigs and Poetry*** *
Get the inside scoop on writing poetry and see how you can turn your own experiences and stories into poems. Prelutsky offers tips, advice, and secrets about writing and provides some fun exercises to help you get started (or unstuck).

Rosen, Michael J. ***The Cuckoo's Haiku: And Other Birding Poems*** *
In sparse and graceful words, poet and birder Michael J. Rosen captures essential characteristics of more than twenty commonly seen North American birds.

Wong, Janet S. ***A Suitcase of Seaweed and Other Poems*** *
With a sense of pride in her Korean, Chinese, and American background, Janet Wong's poetry reflects some of the differences between Chinese and Korean customs and culture and the American way of life.

Worth, Valerie. ***All the Small Poems and Fourteen More*** *
These small poems celebrate ordinary things. In lines of one or two words, Worth captures the essence of a thing, and with her keen observations, makes us see it sharp and fresh.

Books on Summer Math Calendar

Anno, Mitsumasa. ***Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar***
Simple text and pictures introduce the mathematical concept of factorials.

Birch, David. ***The King's Chessboard***
A proud king learns a valuable lesson when he grants his wise man a special request.

Burns, Marilyn. ***Greedy Triangle***
Introduces the concept of angles and shapes with a funny twist.

Demi. ***One Grain of Rice***
A village girl uses the power of doubling to win a billion grains of rice.

Mahy, Margaret. ***17 Kings and 42 Elephants***
Various jungle animals take a journey through a wild, wet night.

Murphy, Stuart. ***Divide and Ride***
Division is taught as a group of friends go on different carnival rides.

Murphy, Stuart. ***Lemonade for Sale***
The Elm Street Kids' Club graphs its lemonade sales.

Packard, E. ***Big Numbers: and Pictures that Show Just How Big They Are!***
A concept book about the unlimited possibilities of counting.

The Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts

Educational Technology and Library Department